



## 7 Myths About High School Physics

### User Manual

As a physics educator, you are on the front lines of the battle against physics misinformation. To help you in this battle, we offer “7 Myths About High School Physics,” a brochure intended to debunk some prominent myths about the physics. We have found that guidance counselors and school administrators often have misconceptions about the subject that lead them to *advise students not to take physics*. In addition, many parents may not understand the importance of taking physics for their children’s future college and career success. Many students will miss out on an opportunity to spark their curiosity with physics if you do not advocate on their behalf.

We advise you to put this brochure in the hands of anyone who advises and mentors students in your school. But don’t just give them the brochure and walk away—use the brochure as an opportunity to start a conversation, in which you can explain the many benefits of a physics education. Here are some specific strategies for success:

### Strategies for High School Teachers

- Give a copy to each guidance counselor in your school, and explain why physics is important for today’s high school students. Invite counselors to visit your class, preferably on a day when you’re doing an engaging activity.
- Give this brochure to your principal(s). If your school’s administration understands the importance of physics, chances are the counselors will be on board soon enough.
- Give this brochure to math and science teachers who have your future students in their classes. Make sure they are telling their students that physics is an important subject for anyone planning to go on to college.
- Give this brochure to parents during open houses or parent-teacher conferences.

### Strategies for University Faculty and Outreach Staff

- If you host professional development workshops or other events for teachers, have copies of this brochure on hand for each participating teacher—especially if they are new or crossover physics teachers. Explain to them how they can use it and how they can obtain more copies.
- If you visit high schools to do outreach or recruiting, bring copies of this brochure with you. Try to get them into the hands of counselors and parents as well as teachers and students.
- If you are involved in a teacher preparation program, make sure your graduates have copies of this brochure.
- If you are organizing a conference for teachers, such as an AAPT section meeting, give a brochure to each participant.

### Ordering Copies

The brochure is available at [www.aps.org/programs/education/posters.cfm](http://www.aps.org/programs/education/posters.cfm)

If you have a good color printer that can print double-sided, you can download and print your own copies. Otherwise, you can order up to nine copies of the brochure from the above website, or you can follow the link to the AAPT store, from which you can order larger quantities for a small price.